Drinking water to all by 2004

267.SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI N.R. DASARI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1372 given in the Rajya Sabha on March 4,2003 and state the steps being taken to achieve the target of covering all rural habitations with drinking water supply by 2004 as proposed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): The steps taken by the Ministry of Rural Development to achieve the target of covering all rural habitations with drinking water supply by 2004 are as under:—

1. Swajaldhara Programme has been launched on 25.12.2002. Under this programme, 90% funds are provided by the Central Government and the remaining 10% is contributed by the Community for implementation of water supply schemes. The Water Supply Schemes will be planned, designed, implemented, operated and maintained by the Community.
2. An allocation of Rs. 200 crore has been made for State Governments under the said programme in 2003-2004.
3. Rs. 1746.65 crore under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (Normal) and Rs. 100 crore under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (Desert Development Programme) have been allocated to the States.
4. The States have been requested to prepare action plans for coverage of all habitations by 2004.
5. Three New Programmes *viz* installation of one lakh hand pumps; providing drinking water facilities to one lakh rural primary schools; and revival of one lakh traditional sources of water have been approved and an amount of Rs. 700 crore has been sanctioned for the purpose. These programmes will be completed in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.

At present, out of 14,22,664 rural habitations, 13,12,122 rural habitations are fully covered, '12,209 habitations are not covered and 98,333 habitations are partially covered with drinking water facilities.